

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Kathy Brockman [kbrockman@badgerassoc.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2000 1:24 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

On behalf of the Badger Assn. of the Blind, I would like to offer our support for descriptive video. The Federal Communications Commission has issued proposed rules to require increasing amounts of descriptive video on television. Over time, this would afford blind people expanding access to television programming much in the same way that our friends in the deaf community now enjoy closed captioning. During the next 20 years there will be a significant increase in the number of people with visual impairments who would benefit from this service. As people reach their 50's there is a significant increase in macular degeneration. With the "baby boom" population hitting this age bracket, this is where the increase will occur.

The people from industry say it cannot be done technologically, it costs too much for far too few people, and it infringes on their first amendment rights of freedom of speech. However, people with visual impairments are being denied access to these programs.

I am legally blind and represent an organization of 650 members. About 3/4 of us are blind or visually impaired. We support the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No.99-339.

Sincerely, Kathy Brockman, President  
Badger Assn. of the Blind, 912 N. Hawley Rd. Milwaukee WI 53213, telephone 414-615-0107, FAX 414-615-0168

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Charlene Smyth [charlenes@mail.drs.state.wv.us]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2000 1:29 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I Support Descriptive Video

Charlene R. Smyth  
220 Buena Vista Avenue  
Clarksburg, WV 26301

I am a person who is blind and supports the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM docket No.99-339.

I have watched some movies and did not like them because of all of the visual action taking place but once I viewed the video via a descriptive video, I found the movie very enjoyable and some of them are now my favorite movies. We also get descriptive videos for children when we have blind children visiting our house and they love watching them and call them "the movie that tells a story."

**Anne Fesh**

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**From:** efnewell [efnewell@lv.rmci.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2000 12:02 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support FCC Rules for discriptiive video

Fcc  
Washington, DC

From: Edwin F. Newell  
1921 Oakleaf Lane  
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Re: Docket Nr. MM99-339

I am Blind and have not been able to enjoy television because I can no longer follow the story as any sighted person can. Therefore I support the FCC rules for Discriptive vide as outlined in Docket MM 99-339.

I am apalled that an organization which proports to represent blind persons such as the National Federation of the Blind has taken the position the Blind People do not want Discriptive Video. Be assured that this organization doesnot represent me

3/14/2000

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Betsy Whitney [brailleit@aloha.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2000 5:54 AM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support Descriptive Video

To Whom it may concern,

My name is Betsy Whitney and I live at:  
137 Kuakolu Place  
Hilo, HI 96720

I am a person who has been blind for 44 years and support the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No.99-339.

There are many things that are unavailable to people who are blind, and this is an opportunity to solve one of them. Please let us have Equal Access to television!

Betsy Whitney

end of message

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## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Jim Vaglia [jimjv@home.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2000 11:12 AM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** Support of FCC descriptive video MM Docket No.99-339.

Mr. James J. Vaglia  
2926 Brentwood Ave.  
Pittsburgh Pa 15227  
412 881-0526

To whom it may concern:

If television networks can afford to give money away to game show contestants then they can afford to provide descriptive services for television programming.

Sincerely,

Jim Vaglia

**Anne Fesh**

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**From:** J. Eric Pridmore [jpridmore@nac.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2000 10:25 AM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

To: Federal Communications Commission, US Federal Government

From: J. Eric Pridmore  
53 Summerfield Road  
Belvidere, NJ 07823

Date: March 14, 2000

Subject: FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No.99-339

I am writing in support of the proposed rule change by the FCC to make descriptive video widely available for all television consumers. I support these rule changes as a blind person and as a concerned US citizen. I urge the FCC to ignore the voices of self-interest and bottom-lines and push forward with this significant proposal that will improve the lives of many.

Descriptive video will begin to include into our citizenry so many who have been excluded and marginalized from mainstream America because they cannot adequately access this media form. Please push forward and approve the rules that will bring about descriptive video. I thank in advance for your support.

Eric Pridmore

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J. Eric Pridmore  
jpridmore@nac.net

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Barbara Rhodes [brhodes@pacbell.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2000 9:58 AM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I Support Descriptive Video

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is:

Barbara Rhodes  
6396 Tamalpais Avenue  
San Jose, CA 95120  
(408) 268-2110

I am blind and support the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No.99-339.

Thank you for understanding how very important this ruling is to persons in the blindness/visually impaired community, but it will also be very useful to persons who aren't in front of the screen so they can follow what is happening and be able to follow the programing being presented.

Just as close captioning now allows persons who must mute the sound on their t.v., to be able the follow the program, descriptive video will also benefit members of the viewing public.

Also, with our aging population, this accommodation will be utilized more and more.

Thank you for the time and consideration you will give this matter.

Sincerely,

Barbara Rhodes

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Barry Levine [barrylev@mindspring.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2000 3:29 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

I wish to announce to you (The FCC) my support in favor of descriptive video;  
MM Docket no. 99-339.

I am blind. "Watching television" is an icon of American behavior and culture. I do not wish to be left out of this, when technology is readily available to support video description. The costs are reasonable, and the accomodation is readily achievable.

Thank you very much.

Barry Levine  
13532 Choctaw Trail  
Lockport, IL 60441  
PH: (708) 301-0242  
fax: (708) 570-2790  
email: see signature

Barry  
mailto:barrylev@mindspring.com>

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Rodney Chard [rchard@uswest.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2000 3:52 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

I am writing to express my support of FCC MM Docket No. 99-339. I want to thank the FCC for presenting this issue, and ask that descriptive video become mandatory. My name is Rod Chard, I live at 7150 S. Pennsylvania Steet, Littleton, CO 80122, my phone is 303-730-1353, my e-mail is echard@uswest.net, and I am low vision (leagally blind). Access to television will enrich my life, as well as the lives of others who cannot visually use television. Today, television is a main social component of life in America. To be dinied access to this medium makes me in effect a second class citizen, unable to socialize at work when the main topic of conversation is the show or movie that was on last night. In addition, documentaries and mini-series can teach me about history and sociology. Most people in this country can become fairly well educated just from selective television viewing. A blind citizen must take formal courses at school for the same effect. Without the ability to understand "quiet passages" in television, much of the information is lost. Please consider my reality, matching that of most blind people, as final decisions are made. Thank you.

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Jo Taliaferro [whitsma@concentric.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2000 3:43 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Cc:** blindser@iserv.net  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO!!!!

Hello,

I am referencing Document no. M. 9939. My name is Jo Taliaferro and I am a funder of DVS and support it as a blind individual who wants the same rights to information and recreation as everyone else!

Why should the people who can't hear have closed captioning and the visually impaired have less because they can't see the screen of a television???

Yes, there are radios with capability of producing the SOUND of TV to a limited extent but that does not provide equal access!!! I want DVS so I can live with dignity and independence, well-rounded in knowledge and information and able to converse with my peers on a level which indicates that I know about the audible programming as well as the visual effects!!

Sincerely,

Jo Taliaferro

President, board of Trustees

Association for the Blind and Visually Impaired

Jo and Whit

whitsma@concentric.net

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** LaDonna Seliger [dseliger@worldnet.att.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2000 4:01 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I Support Descriptive Video

**Importance:** High

3912 Southeast Fifth Street  
Des Moines, IA 50315-2803  
March 13, 2000

Mr. Charles Crawford, Executive Director  
American Council of the Blind  
1155 - 15th Street NW, Suite 1004  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Charlie:

In response to your message concerning descriptive video and the FCC ruling, the following is my response:

I am writing as a blind individual and also as president of the Iowa Council of the United Blind. I feel if PBS can produce excellent programming with description for the blind and visually impaired, then it shouldn't be that difficult for movie studios to do the same as pictures are being produced. Furthermore, there are already a small number of movies already on the market with the video description included.

I believe blind persons have the right to have as much description available to them as the deaf have closed captioning.

The Iowa Council of the United Blind would like to thank the Federal Communications Commission for its proposed ruling and strongly encourage the passage of the ruling.

Sincerely,

Donna Seliger, President  
Iowa Council of the United Blind

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Atwater, Terry [TAtwater@ESD.WA.GOV]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2000 4:49 PM  
**To:** 'info@acb.org'  
**Subject:** I Support Descriptive Video

My name is Terry Atwater. My home address is: 505 Division St. NW, Olympia, WA 98502.

I am totally blind and am very much in favor of the FCC's proposed regulations regarding descriptive video. I support mm docket no.99-339.

I find that descriptive video greatly enhances enjoyment of television programs and movies. It makes the experience more alive and interactive. It gives the listening experience more depth and creates a texture that is not unlike reading a novel. Now television programs have long periods of action sequences or periods of silence, that is when no dialogue is spoken, and it is very hard to know what is happening. Shows of all types rely more and more on what is seen rather than on what is heard. When programs are video described the show is so much more meaningful and one doesn't have to wonder what really happened.

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Liz Hare [eh51@cornell.edu]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2000 4:21 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

I have found that descriptive video makes a great deal of difference in my ability to understand television programs and films. However, I have been continually frustrated that handful of described television shows are on PBS, and there aren't many movies available, either. Yet, most television programs are closed-captioned for the hearing impaired. Why is our need for access less crucial?

On the Weather Channel, local weather reports and forecasts are presented only visually with accompanying music. There is no way for a blind person to access this data.

The action in many movies and television shows is critical to understanding stories or educational points.

The population of people with vision problems is growing due to the increasing number of elderly people with degenerative visual conditions.

I don't own a television. There's nothing on that's very interesting to me, because access to the information is so limited. I would not pay a cable company for access to the current programming. To have me as a customer, they will need to adapt.

Liz Hare  
Liz Hare  
Postdoctoral Associate  
Animal Breeding and Genetics Group  
B47 Morrison Hall  
Cornell University  
Ithaca, NY 14853  
(607) 255 2380  
eh51@cornell.edu

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Cindy Hollis [cindy@sinclair.net]  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2000 4:51 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support Descriptive Video

Cindy Hollis  
6686 Capricorn Ln. N.E.

Bremerton, WA 98311

March 13, 2000

To the Federal Communications Commission:

I am writing in support of the FCC's proposed rules for Descriptive Video, Docket no. 99-339.

I am a totally blind, mother of two, working full time and going to school part time. I believe that I should have equal access to the programming through the medium of television that is available to most every other American. I find great enjoyment in watching movies with Descriptive Video Service available, and I know if this service were also available with all television programming as well, I would also find a greater enjoyment in watching TV.

I am not a member of the National Federation of the Blind and find it very disheartening to know that they are making strong statements against Descriptive Video, as proposed by the FCC. More importantly, they are sending a misleading message that they represent the majority of blind people. I don't know who they speak for, but I do know, they do not speak for me!

Thank you for your support of Descriptive Video, and I implore you not to give up the fight!

Sincerely,

Cindy Hollis

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** miriam@netcom.com  
**Sent:** Monday, March 13, 2000 5:21 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

My name is Miriam Vieni and my address is 515 Oxford Street Westbury, NY 11590. I am a blind person and as such, I strongly support the FCC proposed rules for Descriptive Video MM Docket No.99-339.

I have found the small amount of descriptive video that is available on PBS educational and enjoyable. Without descriptive video, I do not watch TV because I realize how much I miss when I do not have access to its visual content. I believe that as someone who wishes to participate in every possible way in the world around me, I should have access to a medium that my sighted peers take for granted. The FCC proposed rules provide me with this opportunity.

Miriam Vieni, C.S.W.  
New York Home Study Service  
Phone: 516-333-4999  
Website: <http://www.techease.com/nyhomestudy>  
Email: miriam@netcom.com  
Fax: 516-876-8246

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Huhn, Dan R. [huhndr@Maritz.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2000 9:30 AM  
**To:** 'info@acb.org'  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

Hello,

I am a blind individual and I support the FCC proposed rules for descriptive video MM Docket No.99-339.

I can't believe that the NFB disagrees with this important issue. Maybe, none of them are interested in movies and television, or maybe its time for them to step down and allow people who are interested in the future and the many advances for the blind which lay before us. They should be grasping these advances not pushing them away.

But I believe that the majority of blind and visually impaired persons believe as I do, that we also have the right to fully enjoy whatever media, such as movies and television, other people take for granted as their right.

Thank you very much,

Daniel R. Huhn  
14 Willow Rock Place  
Fenton, MO 63026

huhndr@maritz.com

**Anne Fesh**

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**From:** Debbie Potocki [debpot@na2k.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2000 7:13 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I Support Descriptive Video

March 14, 2000  
Debbie Potocki  
7 Railroad Ave. B-209  
Washington, NJ 07882

To Womever It May Concern:

I am writing to you today as a totally blind person who wishes to thank the FCC for issuing proposed rules MM Docket No.99-339 which would provide for video description of regular network TV programing. I live alone and although I enjoy watching television, it is often very difficult to follow the action in a program when there is only laughter, silence or dramatic music and no dialog to indicate to me what is happening. My enjoyment of television would be that much more enhanced if video description was included in network programming. Many times I lose interest in the program because I cannot completely follow it. I have resorted to calling someone on the phone hoping that they are watching the same program in order to ascertain what is going on.

Therefore, I ask that the members of the Motion Picture Association, The National Association of Broadcasters, Direct TV, The Cable TV Association and all others concerned with this matter please consider my situation and that of the hundreds of thousands of persons who are blind or visually impaired. All we want is equal access to the same things in life that our sighted family, friends and neighbors do including watching television, yes, I said, watching television! Thank you very much for your anticipated consideration and I look forward to the day when I can watch TV, know what is happening, when it's happening and discuss a program with my colleagues at work without having to depend on someone else who hopefully is watching the same program!

Respectfully Yours,

Debbie Potocki

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** John Melson [Jmelson1@ix.netcom.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, March 14, 2000 9:22 PM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

I am not good at sending letters, but I would like to have my vote counted in supporting descriptive video. My wife I are the only ones in this household who very much appreciate descriptive video since neither of us have any sight for determining what is going on during those silent portion of a movie or drama.

Sincerely,

John and Anne Melson

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Judy D. Goldman [judyd01@home.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2000 8:56 AM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I SUPPORT DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO

MY NAME IS JUDY GOLDMAN. MY ADDRESS IS 916 BRIDGEVIEW AVE., WHITE OAK,  
PA. 15131.

I AM BLIND AND I DO SUPPORT THE FCC PROPOSED RULING FOR DESCRIPTIVE  
VIDEO, MM DOCKET #99-339.

THERE SEEMS TO BE A MISCONCEPTION THAT BLIND INDIVIDUALS ARE NOT  
INTERESTED IN DESCRIPTIVE VIDEO. I PERSONALLY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE  
OPTION.

THANK YOU,

JUDY GOLDMAN

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Anne Fesh [info@acb.org]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2000 9:26 AM  
**To:** Anne Fesh  
**Subject:** FW: forwarded I support DVS message

-----Original Message-----

From: Kim Charlson [mailto:KLCHARLSON@delphi.com]  
Sent: Thursday, March 23, 2000 10:48 PM  
To: info@acb.org  
Subject: forwarded I support DVS message

My purpose in writing this quick message is to support the FCC proposed rules for Descriptive Video for blind movie/TV viewers. I have noticed a trend toward an increase in the video aspects of screen entertainment. In these times, it is important to increase accessibility. The technical ability to provide this access is readily achievable and is not outrageously expensive. Any questions regarding this matter should be addressed to:

brian langlois  
18 Hunter's run place  
Haverhill, ma 01832  
(978) 374-2577  
(978) 521-2626 (fax)  
langlois@world.std.com

Brian Langlois

**Anne Fesh**

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**From:** Terri Goldstein [terrig@tampabay.rr.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2000 10:00 AM  
**To:** Susan LaVenture; info@acb.org; ecfs@fcc.gov  
**Subject:** Descriptive Video for the Visually Impaired - MM Docket # 99-339

Magalie Roman Salas, Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street SW TW-A325  
Washington, D.C. 20554

To All Concerned:

I am writing this letter in support of the descriptive video rules under MM Docket # 99-339. My name is Terri Goldstein and I am the parent of a nine year old girl named Julia. Julia was born with cataracts and glaucoma in both eyes and is visually impaired. You may think of these diseases as relevant only to the elderly in our country, however they affect children as well.

My daughter accomodates well. That means she makes up for her vision loss by using her other senses more adeptly. For example, in physical education at school, her coach gives her verbal cues directing her how to run the relay course. His verbal cues enhance what she sees, because basically she is a visual learner.

Julia already knows about descriptive videos and undoubtedly would benefit from having this technology everyday -- not just for entertainment purposes. I took Julia to see the Broadway show Annie. Prior to the show, I took her back stage to see the props. Then during the show, I narrated to her -- for example - "the yellow doll house is onstage; President Roosevelt rolled onto stage in his wheelchair." It made the difference for Julia.

There are blind consumers of all ages, interests, etc. However, the most important issue is that people have the opportunity to use whatever tools might be available to enhance accessibility and understanding of the visual world. Regardless of what some blind consumer groups may say -- every person has a right to choose for themselves if they want to employ descriptive video.

Let's not take a step backwards. We need to use all available technologies to provide maximum accessibility for all citizens of our country, regardless of how few or how many. Please -- give our children better accessibility than previous generations had.

Sincerely,

Terri Elise Goldstein  
813-251-2407 (days)  
813-264-0847 (evenings)

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Adam Ruschival [adam3@iglou.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2000 10:06 AM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video!

My name is Adam Ruschival (148 Vernon Avenue, Louisville, KY 40206; 1-502-897-1472). I strongly support the efforts of the Federal Communications Commission's proposed rules to make descriptive video available to the blind and visually impaired. When I was in grade school, I vividly remember my mother's attempts to describe what was happening on television shows because I was totally blind and could not see the screen. I have a blind friend who once watched a movie on TV. The last ten minutes of the movie involved a "chase scene" and had only music (no speech) to end the show. This friend wondered ten years what happened at the end and finally was able to rent the movie and watch it with a sighted person to describe it to satisfy her curiosity.

Now that the technology for descriptive video is advanced and tested, the two situations described above would not have to exist today. The cost to video producers would not have to be any more than that already provide to hearing impaired people through closed captioning.

I worked at the Kentucky Talking Book Library for the Blind and Handicapped for fourteen years, and am currently finishing my twelfth year at the Kentucky School for the Blind Instructional Materials Resource Center. Since I am totally blind, and since I have worked to provide information to blind consumers for the past twenty-six years, I believe that I know how much descriptive video would mean to me, and how much support there is by other blind people for the FCC proposed descriptive video rules on the MM Docket NO99-339.

Thank you for permitting me to have this opportunity to express my support for descriptive video

Adam Ruschival, KIMRC Manager  
Member of the American Council of the Blind

y

**Anne Fesh**

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**From:** stanlopez@mindspring.com  
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2000 10:20 AM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support Discriptive Videos!

I am Blind, and I do support the FCC proposed ruling for Descriptive Video,  
MM Docket 99-339.

Sincerely  
Mr. Stanley Lopez  
3604 Seelye Dr.  
Augusta GA  
30906

"The truths we learn about are selves, is the starting point, to better  
understand those truths we must face in life:

"My friend, I wish you to have love, peace, and much laughter in your  
journey through life! Cheers!!"

Mr. Stanley Lopez  
Voice Mail: 1-888-610-7909  
Extension (3381)  
Email-1: stanlopez@mytalk.com  
Email-2: stanlopez@mindspring.com

## Anne Fesh

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**From:** Peggy Peak [peggy@iglou.com]  
**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2000 10:17 AM  
**To:** info@acb.org  
**Subject:** I support descriptive video

Peggy Peak 2821 Pomeroy Dr. Louisville, Ky. 40218. I as a blind person, support fcc's proposed rules for descriptive video for the blind. mm docket no.99-339. We would like to know what is happening on the screen when it is all visual. thank you.

**Anne Fesh**

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**From:** Heather E Bennett [heatherb@frontiernet.net]

**Sent:** Friday, March 24, 2000 11:06 AM

**To:** info@acb.org

**Subject:** I support Descriptive Video

Name: Heather Bennett

Address: PO. Box 19589 Statesboro, GA 30460

I am blind and I do support the FCC proposed ruling for descriptive video MM Docket #99-339.

3/24/2000